Development of beaches in Karnataka

2493. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Karnataka is having more than 200 Km. coastal line and undeveloped beaches;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is abundant potential for the development of tourism;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give special package for the development of beaches in coastal Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised every year.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned the following projects for the development of tourism in coastal areas:

(1) Providing floodlighting to beaches at Malpe, Marvanthc and Panambur.

(2) Construction of Tourism Complex at Karwar.

(3) Construction of Public convenience and drinking water facilities at Gokarna, Karwar, Pilikula Nisargadhama and Udupi.

(4) Devbagh Beach Resort at Karwar.

(5) Development of cottages ^Devbagh.

(6) Development of heritage village at Pilikula Nisargadhama.

(7) Expansion of Tourist cottages at Pilikula Nisargadhama.

(8) Establishment of Ayurvedic treatment at Pilikula Nisargadhama.

(9) Yatri Niwas at Maravanthc.

(10) Tourist Home at Pajaka Kshctra, Udupi.

Tourism Industry

2494. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to adopt any well-planncd/wcll-considcrcd method for boosting tourism industry;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the funds earmarked for promoting tourism industry is not sufficient;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there arc ample employment opportunities in the tourism industry; and

(e) if so, what arc Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the following short term and long term plans to encourage the foreign as well as domestic tourists in the country:—

(1) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;

(2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;

(3) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;

(4) Creation of world class infrastructure;

(5) Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes;

(6) Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism; and